



Keweenaw NHP Newsletter

Park Celebrates Tenth Anniversary *October 27, 2002 Marks Date of Establishment*



“The establishment of Keweenaw National Historical Park was accomplished through the efforts of numerous heritage-minded Copper Country residents and supporters. A decade ago we saw the culmination of their efforts in the legislative enactment of the park; today we are seeing the fruits of their dedication in the preservation and revitalization of the Keweenaw Peninsula. A national audience is becoming aware, and developing an appreciation for the significance of the copper mining activities in the Keweenaw and its key role in the American Industrial Revolution.”

Frank Fiala, Superintendent

Keweenaw National Historical Park will be celebrating its tenth anniversary on the twenty-seventh of October 2002. As we look ahead to the future of the park, we also reflect on what the park has accomplished in its ten year existence.

While the economy in the Keweenaw seemed to be at a standstill as the 20th century wound down, many residents and Copper Country supporters could not sit and watch the heritage of a nationally significant copper industry disappear. The mines may have shut down, but the legacy of the Copper Country lives on. The families that settled the area, along with their memories, churches, schools, ethnic diversity, and history remain.

The people that laid the foundation for Keweenaw National Historical Park are our fathers, mothers, grandparents, relatives, and friends. They came from afar to swing hammers at drill bits in the damp, dark tunnels of the mines. They raised families through long cold winters. They provided much needed copper to a growing nation. By settling in the Copper Country, our forebears wrote a chapter in American history.

The idea of creating a national park to preserve the heritage of the Keweenaw was the inspired vision of several individuals. They took it upon themselves to initiate a concerted effort to get the ear of Congress. Their determined campaign paid off when the people of this nation, represented by Congress, recognized the importance of preserving the copper mining heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

(continued on page 2)

Everybody Is Invited!
Sunday, October 27, 2002
1-5 pm, CLK High School

- ♦ Band
 - ♦ Speakers
 - ♦ Refreshments
 - ♦ Tour Park Buildings
 - ♦ Dedication of Headquarters
- Community Celebration!**



L to R: Jason Butkovich, Diana Frannti, Work Leader Kit Murley, Tracy LaBonte, Jeremiah Paul. NPS Photo.

Youth Conservation Corps Program

The National Park Service has mandated that parks will provide opportunities for young adults from diverse ethnic, social, economic and cultural backgrounds through youth employment programs. This past summer Keweenaw National Historical Park was host to a newly established Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program, a 40-hour per week, eight-week long, non-residential work program for local area young people.

The program focused on accomplishing a large backlog of needed conservation and resource work while providing meaningful employment for local students. It also allowed them to develop an increased awareness, understanding and appreciation of our nation's and local community's natural and cultural heritage. The Keweenaw NHP YCC program emphasized strong work ethics, skill and leadership development, environmental awareness, and safety training, as well as opportunities for recreational activities.

Four local high school students were randomly selected from all applicants for this year's program. A seasonal Maintenance Work Leader was also hired to lead the crew. Local students participating were Jason Butkovich, Diana

Frannti, Tracy LaBonte, and Jeremiah Paul. The eager, young crew was supervised by Work Leader Kit Murley.

Typical projects in both the Calumet and Quincy districts of the park included clearing overgrown vegetation and site cleanup around historic miner's houses, mining rail cars, and stone buildings and ruins. The crew undertook a major interior cleanup of the Union Building in downtown Calumet in addition to providing assistance for a wide variety of historic structure stabilization efforts.

The young crew assisted in architectural inventories and documentation studies. The YCCers received an excellent introduction to the care and handling of museum collections by helping the museum services staff move, clean, and store museum artifacts. Additionally, the crew performed groundskeeping and litter pickup, general maintenance, and custodial work.

This first season for the Youth Conservation Corps at Keweenaw NHP was extremely beneficial to the park. If funding is available, we hope to be able to continue this valuable program in future summers.

10th Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

A community-wide celebration of the park's 10th Anniversary will be held on Sunday, October 27, beginning at 1:00 pm at the CLK High School. The Keweenaw's congressional delegation along with other dignitaries and park founders have been invited to speak of the park's formation, accomplishments, and hopes for the future.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony rededicating the former Calumet and Hecla General Office Building as Park Headquarters will follow. The ringing of community church bells will complete the formal activities.

Everybody is invited to enjoy cake and refreshments back at CLK High School until 5:00 pm. All are invited to tour the park's headquarters as well as the former C&H Library. Park staff will be stationed throughout the buildings to greet the public and answer questions.

Collectible, solid copper medallions, similar to the Founder's Commemorative Medals, will be available for purchase through the Isle Royale Natural History Association. Local merchants will also have the medallions available.

Public Law 102-543 of the 102nd Congress signed on October 27, 1992, states: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, Purposes – The purposes of this Act are-(1) to preserve the nationally significant historical and cultural sites, structures, and districts of a portion of the Keweenaw Peninsula in the State of Michigan for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations; and (2) to interpret the historic synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula."

Oral History Project Captures Copper Country Memories

Do you have stories about working for Quincy? Were you employed by C&H? Do you remember what life was like when copper was the driving force of the Keweenaw's economy? If so, consider being interviewed about it.

Keweenaw National Historical Park is working to preserve the history and legacy of the copper mining industry in the Keweenaw Peninsula. As part of this effort, the park has initiated an oral history project. The goal of the project is to interview as many of the participants in the Keweenaw's copper mining industry as possible. The purpose of the project is to interview, record, and preserve memories of the people who worked in mining or related industries, and those with memories of growing up amidst this activity.

We have already interviewed retired miners, administrative clerks, hoist engineers, foremen, and many others about their experiences working for a mining company. We've talked to nurses about their careers working for the Calumet Public Hospital. We've also interviewed numerous residents about their memo-

ries of the theatres, the C&H Library, and the Copper Country's active social scenes.

The information gathered from this project will be used for three main purposes. First, the interview tapes and transcripts will be housed at the Keweenaw History Center (C&H Library) for the use of historians and researchers. Many interviews are already available for people to listen to on an appointment basis. Second, the recordings will become a crucial component of the park's interpretation program, allowing visitors to hear the history of the Keweenaw in the voices and words of those who lived it. Third, the project will contribute to effective management decisions for rehabilitation of historic landscapes and structures.

Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives, and Historical Services, provides overall guidance for the project, and works

with Oral Historian Jo Urion, who conducts the personal interviews. During an interview, Urion seeks to capture important memories, such as family background and history, what it was like to be an employee of a mining company or local business, and the experience of living in a company town. All participants in the oral history project are asked to sign a legal release form allowing the National Park Service to use the interview to enhance the interpretation of Copper Country history.

The oral histories compiled by this project will contribute to the park's mission. If you should be contacted for an interview, we urge you to participate. If you have already agreed to an interview, we thank you! If you would like to be considered for an interview, or know someone who should be, please write to the park or call Oral Historian Jo Urion at (906)337-1136. Appointments to listen to existing interviews may be made by calling the same number.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA Donations Build Park's Collection

An important job performed by the staff of Keweenaw NHP is to collect, protect, and curate artifacts that preserve the heritage of the Copper Country. Museum collections are primarily established for preservation and conservation purposes, so that our past is preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. The public faces of preservation efforts exist in exhibits that highlight museum collections.

Congress prohibits the park from soliciting for specific donations for its museum collection, even when an artifact is deemed to have great significance to the park story. Parks such as Keweenaw NHP rely heavily on the sense of community and patriotism that drives people to preserve their heritage and recognize the significance of artifacts they may own. Only through the generosity of its constituency is Keweenaw NHP able to build the collection in support of its interpretive themes.



This Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) official record is a framed broadside graciously donated to Keweenaw NHP by Ann Newton. NPS Photo.

Keweenaw National Historical Park has been very fortunate to receive numerous donations such as the I.O.O.F. Record depicted above. If you have an artifact that you would like the park to consider for addition to its museum collection, please call (906)337-1104. Thank you!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

For more information about Keweenaw National Historical Park, visit our website at: <http://www.nps.gov/kewe> and <http://www.nps.gov/kewe/home.htm> This website provides in-depth information about the story of hardrock copper mining on and around the Keweenaw Peninsula. It also provides links to the Cooperating Sites and various area travel information sites.

Keweenaw National Historical Park
P.O. Box 471
25970 Red Jacket Road
Calumet, MI 49913

Phone
906-337-3168 (Headquarters)
906-337-1104 (Keweenaw History Center)

E-mail
KEWE_Superintendent@nps.gov
KEWE_Interpretation@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

10th Anniversary Program

Sunday, October 27, 2002 @ CLK High School

1:00 pm: Color Guard and Children's Parade accompanied by band

1:30 pm: Remarks by dignitaries

2:20 pm: Keweenaw NHP: formation, accomplishments, visions

2:50 pm: Recessional to Park HQ's

3:00 pm: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the rededication of the former C&H General Office Building as Park Headquarters

Tour park buildings & enjoy refreshments at CLK Schools after ribbon-cutting ceremony!

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Keweenaw National Historical Park's newsletter is published on a quarterly basis. The newsletter's primary distribution mechanism is through insertion in the local newspaper. This publication is also available at area businesses, Travel Information Centers, and by contacting the park directly by phone, U.S. Mail, or email. (See page 3 for contact information)

Editor

Tom Baker, Park Ranger (Interpretation)

Contributors

Rodney Larsen, Administrative Officer
Charles Masten, Chief of Preservation Services
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

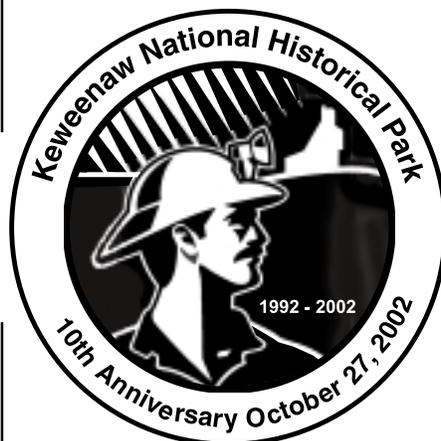
Photographs

NPS Photos

Comments? Write to:

Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Keweenaw National Historical Park
P.O. Box 471
Calumet, MI 49913

10th Anniversary Medallions Available



Solid copper commemorative medallions are available for \$9.95 (plus tax) through Isle Royale Natural History Association and local merchants. Proceeds from the medallions will help support park programs.



Fourth Thursday in History

October's program will feature the Houghton-Keweenaw County Genealogical Society with a presentation entitled, "Genealogy 101: An Introduction To Researching Your Family Tree."

Everyone Welcome!

Fourth Thursday in History is a collaborative speaker series held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except Nov. & Dec.) at various historic sites throughout the Copper Country. Watch the *Daily Mining Gazette* for announcements.